

Some say it is America's Serengeti, its mountains; it is deserted; it is beautiful. Again, it is the size of the State of South Carolina. It is 19 million acres. Can we open it safely? Yes.

Some say we can get the energy from the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; that is why it was established. That is wishful thinking because actually just 15 percent of that entire coastline is open for exploration. Just 3 years ago, the Federal Government closed vast amounts of NPR to protect the birds that live in the lakes. If you look at the model and lakes over NPR, that is where bird life is. There are very few lakes associated in the ANWR area.

Finally, there is a concern of the Porcupine caribou and the Gwich'ins, but no one mentioned what is happening on the Canadian side and involvement of the Gwich'ins who are participants in putting up land for lease.

There was an extraordinary article in the Vancouver Sun newspaper indicating the Gwich'ins are benefiting greatly from oil and gas exploration because Canada expanded its oil and gas leasing program to include testing exploratory wells, et cetera.

The bottom line is there seems to be a great fear suddenly to take up an energy bill, with no particular explanation, particularly when the administration has encouraged Congress to take it up, particularly when the House has done its job, and now we are advised by the majority leader that the committee of jurisdiction, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, is going to suspend any further markup on energy legislation for "this session"—this session.

I have a press release that states that instead the chairman will propose comprehensive and balanced energy legislation. The chairman will. It does not say with the participation of the committee or the minority or the Republicans. It says the chairman outside the parameters of the committee.

It further says "the comprehensive and balanced legislation that can be added"—it does not say "will be added;" it says "can be added"—"by the majority leader to the Senate calendar for," it says, "potential action." It does not say "action."

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the press release be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ENERGY COMMITTEE SUSPENDS MARK-UPS;  
WILL PROPOSE COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED ENERGY LEGISLATION TO MAJORITY LEADER

At the request of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman today suspended any further mark-up of energy legislation for this session of Congress. Instead, the Chairman will propose comprehensive and balanced energy legislation that can be added by the Majority Leader to the Senate Calendar for potential action prior to adjournment.

Noted Bingaman. It has become increasingly clear to the Majority Leader and to me that much of what we are doing in our committee is starting to encroach on the jurisdictions of many other committees. Additionally, with the few weeks remaining in this session, it is now obvious to all how difficult it is going to be for these various committees to finish their work on energy-related provisions.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Bingaman said, the Senate's leadership sincerely wants to avoid quarrelsome, divisive votes in committee. At a time when Americans all over the world are pulling together with a sense of oneness and purpose, Congress has an obligation at the moment to avoid those contentious issues that divide, rather than unite, us.

Bingaman will continue to consult and build consensus with members of his committee, with other committee chairs and with other Senators as he finalizes a proposal to present to the Majority Leader.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I encourage again the majority leader to reflect on this action, give us the assurance he will take it up during this session and allow sufficient time for Members to provide for amendments, provide us with an opportunity to have an up-or-down vote on contentious issues, and that we meet our obligation as the Senate, as the House of Representatives has done, in addressing what is in the national security interests of our Nation, and that is the passage of the comprehensive energy bill.

I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for allowing me this extra opportunity to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. MILLER. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### A LOYAL ALLY

Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, I rise today to offer thanks and praise for a world leader who has been as stalwart and as loyal an ally for the United States as anyone could ever ask.

These past few weeks, British Prime Minister Tony Blair has gone above and beyond the call of duty for America. He has left no doubt that we will be able to count on him and his country over the long haul.

To paraphrase his own words, he was with us at the first and he will stay with us to the last.

He was there in the gallery of the House of Representatives when President Bush made his moving and forceful speech to this Nation in a joint session of this Congress.

He was there at Ground Zero in New York City, witnessing the destruction with his own eyes and mourning what he called "the slaughter of thousands of innocents."

He was there in Pakistan, near the dangerous heart of this war, reassuring a nervous Pakistani President that he made the right decision in choosing the United States over the Taliban regime.

Since September 11, Tony Blair has served valiantly as our voluntary ambassador to the world.

In London, Berlin, Paris, New York, Washington, Brussels, Moscow, Islamabad, New Delhi, and Geneva, Blair has rallied international leaders and built a coalition of support for the United States. He has done so with a diplomacy, eloquence and strong resolve reminiscent of Winston Churchill during his finest hours.

In his latest brilliant stroke, Blair acted swiftly when he saw Osama bin Laden's videotaped speech Sunday night. Blair immediately summoned a reporter from the Arabic network to his office at 10 Downing Street and taped his own strong rebuttal to bin Laden. It aired on the same day, on the same Arabic network.

It should not be surprising that Blair would rise to the occasion as ably and powerfully as he has. The British have a tough, resolute attitude when it comes to defending themselves. They are willing to take risks on the battlefield. They are willing to risk casualties for the greater good. They are the ones you want on your side in times like these.

He was with us at the first, and he will stay with us to the last, he said. For that, we owe Tony Blair our deepest gratitude. We could not ask any more of him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, in the absence of any other Senator seeking recognition, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak up to 20 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEEDS STRUCTURAL REORGANIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to discuss the pending emergency caused by the horrific terrorist attacks on September 11. There is a need for some structural reorganization of the Federal Government in accordance with the recommendations of a number of distinguished commissions which have studied these problems and in accordance with our own findings, as we have worked through the matters in the Senate Intelligence Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee. There is also the need for legislation to expand the powers of law enforcement on terrorists.

With respect to the newly created Office of Homeland Security, it is my thought there needs to be a structure whereby the position is made a Cabinet position. The Federal Government is fortunate to have secured the services of former Governor Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania to take on this responsibility. For the moment, the office has been created in the executive branch by an Executive Order, and I believe former